



MINUTES
ARTF Incentive Program Working Group Meeting
27th May 2020

Agenda item #1: Terms of Reference for Independent Review of Third-Party Monitoring Agent Performance

- **World Bank** noted plans for an internal review of Third-Party Monitoring Agent performance. TPM plays a critical role in ensuring fiduciary control over support to GoIRA provided through the Recurrent Cost Window, including the Incentive Program.
- **World Bank** invited members of the IPWG to provide comments on the draft Terms of Reference (attached) by 9 June 2020. Please send comments directly to Katie Blanchette (kblanchette@worldbank.org).

Agenda item #2: Presentation of Learning Review emerging findings

- **Bill Byrd** (World Bank consultant) outlined emerging findings of the learning review of the Recurrent and Capital Cost Window. (Presentation attached).
- In subsequent discussion, **IPWG members** noted the need to ensure that the review provided adequate coverage of the impact of supported reform actions. The review should include consideration of: i) the contribution of supported policy actions to observed outcomes (positive and negative); ii) the 'real world' impact of policy reforms that have often been based on upstream changes to policies and laws; iii) the sustainability of reforms and the extent to which reforms have built on previous reforms.
- **World Bank** acknowledged the importance of trying to address these questions in the review process, while highlighting associated methodological challenges. **World Bank** requested that IPWG partners send specific written follow-up comments highlighting the key questions that they expect the review to answer but which have not yet been covered through emerging findings.

Agenda item #3: Update on preparation of the COVID-19 Emergency Response Development Policy Grant

- **World Bank** updated the IPWG on progress with policy actions and next steps with processing the COVID-19 Response DPG. World Bank noted that all policy actions have been complete and that World Bank management approval would be sought on the 28th May.
- **Note:** World Bank management has approved negotiations for the proposed operation. The Decision Note is attached. Negotiations are scheduled for 3 June 2020.
- **IPWG members** sought clarification as to why several actions had been dropped from the proposed long-list, including: i) actions related to health procurement; ii) actions related to clearance of private sector arrears; and iii) actions related to offering extensions for tax payments. World Bank clarified that: i) the intention was always to reduce the number of actions as preparation progressed; ii) the private sector arrears clearance action and extension of tax payment deadlines action had effectively already been implemented and therefore did not require incentivization through the operation;



and iii) health procurement issues were being resolved through World Bank / ARTF project engagements, specifically including the emergency response COVID-19 health project.

- **World Bank** noted that any comments on the program document (latest version attached) would be welcome up to June 3rd, at which point the document will be submitted to the World Bank Board and ARTF Management Committee for final approval.

Attachments:

- Terms of Reference for Independent Review of Third-Party Monitoring Agent Performance (for comment by June 9)
- Current program document for COVID-19 Response Development Policy Grant (for final comment by June 3)
- Decision Note from Regional Operations Committee review of the proposed COVID-19 Response DPG
- Presentation of emerging findings from RCW Learning Review.

All attachments are available in the shared folder.